

WASHINGTON STAR

12 SEP 1974

Plot to Beat Allende Laid to CIA

By Jeremiah O'Leary
Star-News Staff Writer

Rep. Michael J. Harrington, D-Mass., has charged that CIA activities in Chile against the government of President Salvador Allende were viewed by the agency as a "prototype or laboratory experiment" to test techniques of heavy financial investment to discredit and bring down a government.

The charge is contained in a letter to Chairman J. William Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations committee two months ago and which was released today by Harrington.

In a press conference Harrington made public exchanges on correspondence between himself, Fulbright and other members of Congress about his concern over activities of CIA and the U.S. Treasury Department in Chile and the "quite limited" congressional review of CIA activities. Harrington charged these reviews are perfunctory and come after the fact.

IN HIS LETTER to Fulbright, Harrington described how the "40 Committee" headed by Henry A. Kissinger authorized expenditure of \$11 million from 1962 to 1973 to help prevent the election of Allende. He said CIA Director William Colby's words in testimony before a House Armed Services subcommittee on the CIA disclose the CIA's intention was to "destabilize" the Allende government so as to precipitate its downfall.

Harrington wrote that, "funding was provided to individuals, political parties and media outlets in Chile through channels in other countries and in both Latin America and Europe. Mr. Colby's description of these operations was direct, though not to the point of

identifying actual contacts and conduits."

Harrington charged the Colby testimony indicated the agency role in 1970 was viewed as that of the "spoiler involving general attempts to politically destabilize the country and discredit Allende to improve the likelihood that an opposition candidate would win. Following the election of Allende, \$5 million was authorized by the 40 committee for more destabilization efforts from 1971 to 1973. An additional \$1.5 million was spent for the 1973 (Chilean) municipal elections. Some of these funds were used to support an unnamed but influential anti-Allende newspaper." (The Star-News has learned that this newspaper was El Mercurio, largest daily in Chile and the property of wealthy businessman Augustin Edwards.)

IN A SEPARATE letter to Chairman Lucien Nedzi of the House Armed Services subcommittee on intelligence, Harrington charged that Colby indicated in testimony last April that the CIA "counselled the White House to rebuff attempts of President Allende to settle his differences with the United States. These and other related activities suggest that the agency departed from its proper role of intelligence gathering and, instead, participated in formulation of policies and events both in the United States and Chile which it was supposed to objectively analyze and report."

Fulbright responded on July 26, with a letter to Harrington in which the Arkansas Democrat said he shared Harrington's frustration.

"This has been going on in places other than Chile for many years," Fulbright wrote. "The Senate at least has been unwilling to exercise serious control of the

CIA and apparently approves of the activities to which you refer in Chile and which I believe to be a procedure which the CIA has followed in other countries."

FULBRIGHT wrote that he believed creation of a Joint Committee with full authority to examine the CIA and control it is the only practical answer.

"The Foreign Relations Committee," Fulbright wrote, "in a showdown never has sufficient votes to overcome the opposition of the forces led by the Armed Services Committee in the Senate but a Joint Committee I think would have sufficient prestige to exercise control."

Fulbright said he would be glad to join Harrington in sponsoring a renewed ef-

fort to create a Joint Committee on the Intelligence Community.

Harrington said it is indicative of his frustrations that in five meetings of the House subcommittee on inter-American affairs this year on human rights in Chile, only one government witness with knowledge of U.S. activities in Chile appeared.

That witness, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Harry Shlaudeman indicated, Harrington said "some knowledge on his part of CIA activities that he was unwilling to discuss before a duly-constituted committee of the House."

Harrington added there are inherent limitations for members of Congress in trying to uncover covert activities such as those in Chile and he said the existing oversight machinery is illusory.

00845